

"The Cause"

Feb 4 1862

Weymouth

Feb 17<sup>th</sup> 1862

My dear Mary,

You will, I hope, receive by this steamer via Mr. Webb, my dear friend Mrs Putnam's book, - of which I beg your acceptance, in token of most grateful remembrance of all the years of past cooperation, & of assurance of present friendship.

I have not Mrs Mitchell's address, but have directed a vol. to be sent to you for her. Will you kindly take charge of it?

Our foolish festival which I thought so ill-advised has turned out even more ill-advised than I thought. Not only our American, yes our English friends, & in my name too, (as I learned after it



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was done, but did so after  
having taken to heart a Miss  
against England that seems  
to me unjustifiable. I am  
told I shall find out why when  
England invades us, to keep up  
Slavery, because she wants Cotton  
& the like. But I have not that  
power of imagination which en-  
ables one yet to see Britannia  
coming to turn human to slaves.  
It is the tension of our position,  
while waiting for our public opin-  
ion to change & corroborate suf-  
ficiently to justify our Government  
in its own eyes in taking Anti-  
Slavery action, — it is the ap-  
prehension that incidents arise  
from time to time that the people  
may not after all repent in time,  
& that the rest of the world may  
roll over the Slavery-ridden  
land that dares not be free, —



it is all this that makes us so  
restive & unjust. — and thus I  
cannot help seeing, whatever as  
an American I may feel.

"One thing is needful" — the proclama-  
tion of Freedom; and it does not  
hasten it, but the contrary, to  
call England our Enemy, &  
to stigmatise her as pro-Slavery.  
Such a country as ours, where  
Slavery is yet the law of the  
land, is not in so good a posi-  
tion as England, where Slavery is  
punished with death. — & so I am  
sorry to see abolitionists dealing their  
blows at their friends. But it is  
a common disaster — this falling  
into each others faces by mistake;  
to be refuted because it weakens  
our English friends, & prevents them  
from helping our country or  
strengthening their own in the period  
of probation, by driving them  
off the vantage ground for doing



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So. But this of the past I  
was led to it by way of the Circular.  
Perhaps I have been too careful  
of our Fund Mays feelings.  
Perhaps I ought not to have  
minded worrying them all,  
by saying—"I will not ever  
pay my money to you, so  
much as I dislike your blind way  
of going on—exactly as we always  
did—after every thing is so changed  
as to require a different procedure.  
But I meant for the best, — unwilling  
to wound them. The Festival was  
an injury to the Society — a sucker  
to the Annual Meeting: — Of  
course: for the time had come to  
bring the assistance chock up to  
the Annual Meeting: it was only  
to send out invitations to a confer-  
ence with the Soc. & we should have  
raised double the sum; quadruple  
rather; — by presenting the organization  
of Fugitive in Carolina as our object  
for the hour, at that session of the Ann. Meet.



Not a name on the list, (I have analyzed it, as I always do our documents of the kind -) that was not ready to come up to the house to consult, instead of staying in the half-way house, to fast. But mistakes are of no consequence except to improve our judgment by. Having no better judgment how could we but make them. It is not worth while to find fault with the past, but draw from it lessons for the future.

I shall send you the Constitution of the Reunion- at Commission which is following the flag into S. Carolina.

Let us! - reading & weeping by the 30.000 blacks in Beaufort District, where the like has been punishable with death under the lash! It is "a great & effectual deed" (Wm. Paul said) into slavery for its destruction. My love to all



the funds as you see them.  
Tell Mr. Chapman (Edwin) that  
I have delayed sending him  
a book, because I wished it to  
be the 2<sup>d</sup> part of the "Tragedy of  
Errors", yet in press.

Mrs. Putnam's fine son,  
the young Lieutenant, fell at the  
Battle of Bull's Bluff - betrayed, with  
the whole regiment, into the  
power of the Slaveholders' Army  
by the treachery of the Commander.

At least General Stone is under  
arrest on charge of treason in  
that affair. I take people just  
where they are, citizens & devoted  
to the Union, & say, seeing the  
Executive is at work with rebellion,  
strengthen it to proclaim Freedom.

Then offer all you have  
to organize industry & Freedom  
at one Bullen's Stroke, - But  
without such proclamation, you

I thank you most warmly for your letter.



[illegible]



I have sent a vol. to Mrs  
Whitledge - to Cambridge &  
elsewhere. I wish I could have  
got my copies in time to Mar  
Yours, that we might read it  
together, so to speak. Wm

Will you kindly forward  
the enclosed to Mr Webb,  
to go with two vols that I  
have sent him for Sturford  
House

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scribe for me, & order to  
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